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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 10/5/2005. This amendment should obviate outstanding issues and make the pending claims allowable. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rogers (4,518,963).

Claims 3, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers in view of Unnewehr.

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention provides for an integrated radio tower light controller and alarm reporting device, wherein the device comprises: a current sensing module monitoring AC current distributed to one or more beacons and one or more lights, the module reporting one or more alarm modes associated with the beacon(s) and lights via one or more alarm units; a flasher module flashing the beacons at a pre-determined flash rate and reporting the alarm modes via the alarm unit(s) if any of the beacons fail to flash at the pre-determined flash rate; a first

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mechanical relay for reporting failure in the flasher module via the alarm unit(s); and a second mechanical relay for reporting failure in the current sensing module via the alarm unit(s).

The present invention also provides for an integrated radio tower light controller and alarm reporting device, wherein the device comprises: one or more alarm units; a solid-state flasher module for powering and flashing one or more beacons of a radio tower at a predetermined flash rate; a solid-state current sensing device that is operatively linked to the solid-state flasher module for sensing either a failure in flashing at the predetermined flash rate or a failure in AC current, and upon sensing the failure, activating the alarm unit(s); and at least three solid-state current sensing device for monitoring AC current in "A" beacon, "B" beacon, and sidelights, and upon sensing failure in the monitored AC current, activating the alarm unit(s).

The present invention also provides for a method for replacing a pre-existing radio tower light controller with an integrated tower light controller and alarm reporting device, the pre-existing radio tower light controller comprising electromechanical flasher modules and electromechanical current sensing modules, wherein the method comprises the steps of: replacing the electromechanical flasher module with a solid-state flasher module for powering and flashing one or more beacons of a radio tower at a predetermined flash rate; replacing the electromechanical current sensing modules with a solid-state current sensing device that is operatively linked to the solid-state flasher module for sensing either a failure in flashing at the predetermined flash rate or a failure in AC current, and upon sensing the failure, activating one or more alarm units; and installing at least three solid-state current sensing device for monitoring AC current in "A" beacon, "B" beacon, and sidelights, and upon sensing failure in the monitored AC current, activating the alarm unit(s).

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In the Claims

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 6 has been amended to correct antecedent basis issues (i.e., "said system" has been amended to recite "integrated radio tower light controller and alarm reporting device") without adding new matter. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection with respect to claim 6.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rogers (4,518,963). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), each and every element of the rejected claim must be shown in a single reference. Applicants contend that the Rogers reference fails to anticipate or render obvious many of the limitations of Applicants' pending claims.

Rogers provides for circuitry that responds to major fault conditions of aircraft obstruction warning light systems. Rogers teaches a means for producing a D.C. signal whose amplitude is related to current consumed by the flashing, top light warning, and for producing an intermittent signal whose frequency is related to the "on" times of the flasher, in combination with the means responsive to the D.C. signal to detect and indicate failure in the top light warning and means responsive to the intermittent signal for detecting and indicating failure of the flasher in the "on" condition.

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With respect to independent claims 1, 7, and 13, on page 2-3 of the Office Action of 10/05/2005, the Examiner states that Rogers anticipates a current sensing module monitoring AC current distributed to one or more beacons and one or more lights. In column 1, lines 40-45, Rogers states:

“the invention comprehends a system responsive to the magnitude of a d.c. signal indicative of the current drawn by the top light for detecting and indicating failure of one of the top lights and for detecting and indicating failure of both of the top lights”

Further, in column 2, lines 35-43 of Rogers describe, in detail, the “failure detection circuit”, a portion of which is provided below:

“the failure-detecting circuit of this invention is self-contained and for this purpose is provided with a 24 volt battery 38 providing 24 volts d.c. at the conductor 39”

Applicants submit that Rogers merely provides for a self-contained failure detection circuit that generates a 24 volt D.C. signal that is used in determining the current drawn by the top light of an aircraft obstruction warning light system. By contrast, claim 1 of Applicants' invention teaches a current sensing module that monitors AC current distributed to one or more beacons and one or more lights. For further clarification of Applicants' claims, the Examiner is directed to figure 1 of Applicants' invention, which depicts the flashed A.C. routed through solid-state current sensing device 105 that senses a loss of current.

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Based on the citations provided for by the Examiner and the Rogers reference in its entirety, Applicants submit that Rogers merely teaches the implementation of a 24 volts D.C. battery source that generates a D.C. signal, wherein the generated D.C. signal is monitored by the failure detecting circuit to detect failure in the top light. Applicants respectfully submit that such a teaching neither anticipates nor renders obvious claim 1's current sensing module that monitors AC current distributed to one or more beacons and one or more lights.

Additionally, on page 2-3 of the Office Action of 10/05/2005, the Examiner states that the Rogers reference teaches a mechanical relay for reporting failure in the current sensing module. However, the above-mentioned self-contained failure detection circuit incorporating a 24 volt D.C. battery source fails to teach a mechanical relay for reporting failure. Absent such a showing, the Rogers reference cannot anticipate or render obvious Applicants claimed invention.

If the Examiner still feels that the Rogers' failure detecting circuit monitors AC current distributed to one or more beacons and one or more lights and works in conjunction with a mechanical relay to report failure in the monitored current, Applicants respectfully remind the examiner that it is the duty of the examiner to specifically point out each and every limitation of a claim being rejected as per §1.104(c)(2) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 707 of the M.P.E.P., which explicitly states that "the particular part relied on must be designated" and "the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified".

The above-mentioned arguments substantially apply to independent claim 7 as it recites similar features such as a "solid-state current sensing device that is operatively linked to said

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solid-state flasher module for sensing either a failure in flashing at said predetermined flash rate or a failure in AC current" and a "at least three solid-state current sensing device for monitoring AC current in "A" beacon, "B" beacon, and sidelights, and upon sensing failure in said monitored AC current, activating said one or more alarm units." As shown above, the Rogers reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the feature of monitoring AC currents via solid-state sensing device. Absent such a showing, Rogers cannot anticipate or render obvious the limitations of independent claims 7.

The above mentioned arguments substantially apply to independent claim 13 as it recites similar features such as the installation of at least three solid-state current sensing device for monitoring AC current in "A" beacon, "B" beacon, and sidelights. As shown above, the Rogers reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the feature of monitoring AC currents via solid-state sensing device. Absent such a showing, Rogers cannot anticipate or render obvious the limitations of independent claims 13.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that Rogers fails to anticipate or render obvious many of the limitations of independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, and respectfully requests allowance thereof. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to allow dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-16 as they depend from an allowable claim.

SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It

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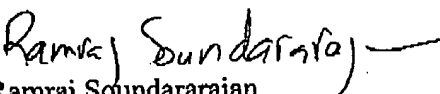
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is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This amendment is being filed with a petition for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the petition fee, as well as any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,


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